



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Governor's Office of Energy Policy

**For Immediate Release**  
**October 5, 2007**

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**GOVERNOR FLETCHER ANNOUNCES STATE FUNDING FOR  
ENERGY RESEARCH**

*Energy research is one of the hallmarks of the Fletcher administration*

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Governor Fletcher announced today that the Governor's Office of Energy Policy will provide a total of \$860,697 in funding to three universities for energy research projects. "Kentucky continues to lead the way toward our nation's energy future through prudent investment in energy research," said Governor Fletcher. "By supporting the work of some of the world's best scientific minds, we can meet our energy goals. This funding demonstrates our commitment to research and development, and our programs will now be able to grow even stronger with the passage of HB 1 in August."

The University of Louisville will receive funding for the following project:

"Enzyme-free Hydrolysis of Kentucky Agricultural Residues for Conversion to Ethanol." This project will be headed by Dr. Eric Berson of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Total funding is \$79,005.

Western Kentucky University will receive funding for the following project:

"Emission and Leaching Potential of Mercury from Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) Materials Amended Soil." This project is under the leadership of Dr. Chin-Min Cheng of the Institute for Combustion Science & Environmental Technology. Total funding is \$110,928.

The University of Kentucky will receive funding for the following projects:

"Demonstrating Techniques for Establishing Woody Bioenergy Plantations on Reclaimed Surface Mined Lands." Dr. Christopher Barton of the Department of Forestry is the project lead. Total funding is \$174,166.

"On-Site Thermochemical Densification of Biomass." This project is under the leadership of Dr. Rodney Andrews, Director of the Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER). Total funding is \$133,124.

"Feasibility of Ethanol Production from Sweet Sorghum in Kentucky." Dr. Michael Montross of the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering will lead this project. Total funding is \$111,664.

"Development of a Liquid Membrane for Solvent-Based Post-Combustion CO<sub>2</sub> Scrubber." This project is under the leadership of Dr. Kunlei Liu, of the CAER. Total funding is \$148,640.

"Toward Understanding How Alkali Promoters Alleviate CO<sub>2</sub> Production and Enhance Chain Growth Probability Over Iron Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis Catalysts." The principal investigator for this project is Dr. Gary Jacobs of the CAER. Total funding is \$103,170.

These projects were chosen following two open solicitations for proposals that closed on July 31, 2007. The grants, which will be awarded in October, are targeted at advancing the goals of the Commonwealth's Comprehensive Energy Strategy. The document is available at <http://www.energy.ky.gov/energyplan/>.

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